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(54) Title: USE OF A DEHYDROEPIANDROSTERONE DERIVATIVE FOR ENHANCING OR ACCELERATING RE-EPITHELIALIZATION OR RE-ENDOTHELIALIZATION OF A TISSUE		
(57) Abstract <p>The present invention relates to the use of a dehydroepiandrosterone (DHEA) derivative as described herein or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof for preparing a pharmaceutical composition for accelerating re-epithelialization or re-endothelialization of tissue in a subject in need thereof. Examples of re-epithelialization in which the invention is particularly suited include, but are not limited to, re-epithelialization of (a) skin following surgical wounds; (b) skin abrasions caused by mechanical trauma, caustic agents or burns; (c) cornea following cataract surgery or corneal transplants; (d) mucosal epithelium (respiratory, gastrointestinal, genitourinary, mammary, oral cavity, ocular tissue, liver and kidney) following infection, nonpathological etiologies or drug therapy; (e) skin following grafting; and (f) renal tubule following acute tubular necrosis. Examples of re-endothelialization in which the invention is particularly suited include, but are not limited to, re-endothelialization (or regrowth of endothelium) in blood vessels following angioplasty, and the lysis of fibrin clots or lysis or mechanical disruption of thrombi in coronary arteries. In accordance with the present invention, the time to complete re-epithelialization or re-endothelialization is enhanced or accelerated by administering a dehydroepiandrosterone (DHEA) derivative.</p>		

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TITLE OF THE INVENTION

USE OF A DEHYDROEPIANDROSTERONE DERIVATIVE FOR
ENHANCING OR ACCELERATING RE-EPITHELIALIZATION
OR RE-ENDOTHELIALIZATION OF A TISSUE

5

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to the use of a dehydroepiandrosterone (DHEA) derivative as described herein or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof for preparing a pharmaceutical composition for accelerating re-epithelialization or re-endothelialization of tissue in a subject in need thereof. Examples of re-epithelialization in which the invention is particularly suited include, but are not limited to, re-epithelialization of (a) skin following surgical wounds, (b) skin abrasions caused by mechanical trauma, caustic agents or burns, (c) cornea following cataract surgery or corneal transplants, (d) mucosal epithelium (respiratory, gastrointestinal, genitourinary, mammary, oral cavity, ocular tissue, liver and kidney) following infection, nonpathological etiologies or drug therapy, (e) skin following grafting and (f) renal tubule following acute tubular necrosis. Examples of re-endothelialization in which the invention is particularly suited include, but are not limited to, re-endothelialization (or regrowth of endothelium) in blood vessels following angioplasty, lysis of fibrin clots or lysis or mechanical disruption of thrombi in coronary arteries. The invention is especially suited for the re-epithelialization of donor sites from which epidermal tissue is harvested for application to burn sites and for repair of the tissue and microvasculature of thermally injured skin. In accordance with the present invention, the time to complete re-epithelialization or re-endothelialization is enhanced or accelerated by administering a dehydroepiandrosterone (DHEA) derivative.

The publications and other materials used herein to illuminate the background of the invention and in particular cases, to provide additional details respecting the practice, are incorporated by reference, and for convenience are numerically referenced in the following text and respectively grouped in the appended bibliography.

After a lesion occurs in the epidermis, it becomes critical to survival that access of the environment to the dermis is blocked without delay. In this event, the body effects wound closure in two temporally related steps: within minutes by the formation of a blood clot, which reestablishes a temporary barrier, and then within hours to days by the movement of residual epithelium below the clot and over the underlying dermis -- the process of re-epithelialization. The

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first step, involving blood clot formation and its dependence on vessel wall, platelets and coagulation proteins, is the subject of a recent review (1).

Characteristic of all epithelial cells is the propensity to cover a free surface. Clearly, in order to cover a denuded surface, epithelial cells must (1) move, and (2) grow over that wounded area. Although both processes are stimulated by wounding, the more important process in early wound closure is cell migration, which is independent of cell division (2-6). Indeed, under experimental conditions, blocking of cell division has no effect on the rate of epithelial cell movement or wound closure (7-9). The migrating cells arise from the residual epithelium at the periphery of the lesion or, more often, from the residual hair or sweat structure at the wound base. In large, deep cutaneous lesions, the epithelium that covers the wound area arises from the wound periphery. In small, superficial cutaneous wounds, however, most of the epithelium arises from the residual pilosebaceous or eccrine structure (5, 10, 11). Recent observations suggest, however, that under some circumstances mesenchymal cells may transform and become part of the regenerating epithelium (12); however, that phenomenon probably plays a minor role in the closure of most wounds.

Re-epithelialization occurs most rapidly over a superficial wound that leaves the basement membrane zone intact. In the repair of a suction blister, for example, in which the floor of the wound consists of an intact *lamina densa* (suction causes the separation of the epidermis from the dermis within the *lamina lucida*), short tongues of epithelial cells rapidly (within 12 to 24 hours) grow out from the residual epithelial structures (13). By 24 to 72 hours, most of the wound base is covered by a thin layer of epithelium, and by four days it is covered by layered keratinocytes (13, 14).

In all systems, it is the basal cell, i.e., the cell attached to the substratum, that responds to wounding and initiates migration. These marginal cells flatten out in the direction of the wound and send out cytoplasmic projections over the substratum (15, 16). In preparation for their movement, the epithelial cells loosen their intercellular and substratum attachments. They have hemidesmosomal junctions, their tonofilaments withdraw from the cell periphery, and the basement membrane zone becomes less well-defined (13,17-19). In addition, the cells at the leading edge become actively phagocytic, picking up tissue debris and erythrocytes. This phagocytic property of epidermal cells can be illustrated in the laboratory, using fluorescein-

coated beads or Thorotrast particles, which are taken up by epidermal cells (16, 17, 20). This property is enhanced by the fibronectin in wound fluid (21).

Within one or two days, epithelial cells behind the migrating front begin to proliferate, generating new populations of cells to cover the wound (6, 13). Once epithelialization is complete
5 and the wound area is covered, the epithelial cells revert to their normal prototype and reassume their intercellular and basement membrane contacts.

Re-epithelialization over any wound will occur, like an unrolling carpet or a military phalanx, by the movement of epithelial cells as a sheet. Considering the tight intercellular
10 cohesions that epithelial cells share, it is not surprising that these cells do not migrate over a wound as single cells, but instead as small clusters or sheets. When sheets of epithelial cells have been observed directly, the cells at the margin of the moving sheet appeared to be actively motile while the cells behind (or above, in a stratified layer) the marginal cells were passively dragged along (22, 23). If attachment of the marginal cells to the substrate is disturbed, the migrating sheet, under tension, will withdraw. This mode of sheet movement, referred to as the
15 sliding model of wound closure, has been demonstrated directly for epithelial cells in tissue culture (22), for embryonic epithelial movement (24), for amphibian wound closure (23), and for corneal wound closure (25).

It is much more difficult to study mammalian cutaneous wound closure directly because of the thickness and opacity of the dermis. Moreover, the migrating epithelial sheet of mammalian
20 epidermis is multi-layered and thus more complex than those systems illustrating the sliding model. For the repairing mammalian epidermis, Winter (26) proposed the "leap-frog" model or epidermal sheet movement. This model was deduced indirectly from ultrastructural morphological data which suggested that cells at the migrating front adhere to the substrate only to be replaced at the front, in turn, by the cells above and behind it. Successively, then,
25 submarginal cells are conceived to crawl over the newly adherent basal cells in a leap-frog fashion. Cell marker studies have been presented in support of this model wherein keratin antigens found in suprabasal cells of the intact epidermis (K10, K1) are found in the basal cells of the migrating tip. Although one may ascribe these results to cell movement, these changes may also be explained by the ability of keratinocytes to switch their differentiation pattern after
30 injury to express a keratin that normally is not found among the cells in the basal layer (28). Although the data are indirect, the leap-frog model of mammalian epidermal wound closure has

many proponents (6, 13, 27-30). As the issue is not yet resolved, it is currently reasonable to contend that simple epithelium moves by the sliding model while multilayered epithelium may manifest a more complex pattern. In mammals, either or both mechanisms (sliding and leap-frogging) may function in wound closure, depending on the state and character of the epithelium affected (31).

It is desired to identify compounds which will enhance the rate of or accelerate re-epithelialization or re-endothelialization, thus aiding in the re-epithelialization or re-endothelialization of tissue such as noted above.

DHEA is an endogenous androgenic steroid which serves as the primary precursor in the biosynthesis of both androgens and estrogens (32) and which has been shown to have a myriad of biological activities. DHEA has been reported to play a mitigating role in obesity, diabetes, carcinogenesis, autoimmunity, neurological loss of memory (33-36), and the negative effects of GCS on IL-2 production by murine T cells (37). Araneo et al. (38) has shown that the administration of DHEA to burned mice within one hour after injury resulted in the preservation of normal immunologic competence, including the normal capacity to produce T-cell-derived lymphokines, the generation of cellular immune responses and the ability to resist an induced infection. Eich et al. (39, 40) describes the use of DHEA to reduce the rate of platelet aggregation and the use of DHEA or DHEA-sulfate (DHEA-S) to reduce the production of thromboxane, respectively.

Nestler et al. (41) shows that administration of DHEA was able in human patients to reduce body fat mass, increase muscle mass, lower LDL cholesterol levels without affecting HDL cholesterol levels, lower serum apolipoprotein B levels, and not affect tissue sensitivity to insulin. Kent (42) reported DHEA to be a "miracle drug" which may prevent obesity, aging, diabetes mellitus and heart disease. DHEA was widely prescribed as a drug treatment for many years. However, the Food and Drug Administration recently restricted its use. DHEA is readily interconvertible with its sulfate ester DHEA-S through the action of intracellular sulfatases and sulfotransferases.

Daynes et al. (43) shows that administration of certain DHEA derivatives are useful for the reducing or preventing progressive tissue necrosis, reperfusion injury, bacterial translocation and adult respiratory distress syndrome. Daynes et al. (44) shows that the administration of DHEAS and other DHEA derivatives are also suitable for these uses. Finally, Araneo et al. (45) shows that

DHEA derivatives are useful for reducing or preventing pulmonary hypertension. Despite the myriad of biological activities reported for DHEA derivatives, DHEA derivatives have not been reported to have any affect on re-epithelialization.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to the use of a dehydroepiandrosterone (DHEA) derivative as described herein or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof for preparing a pharmaceutical composition for accelerating re-epithelialization or re-endothelialization of tissue in a subject in need thereof. Examples of re-epithelialization in which the invention is particularly suited include, but are not limited to, re-epithelialization of (a) skin following surgical wounds, (b) skin abrasions caused by mechanical trauma, caustic agents or burns, (c) cornea following cataract surgery or corneal transplants, (d) mucosal epithelium (respiratory, gastrointestinal, genitourinary, mammary, oral cavity, ocular tissue, liver and kidney) following infection, nonpathological etiologies or drug therapy, (e) skin following grafting and (f) renal tubule following acute tubular necrosis. Examples of re-endothelialization in which the invention is particularly suited include, but are not limited to, re-endothelialization (or regrowth of endothelium) in blood vessels following angioplasty, lysis of fibrin clots or lysis or mechanical disruption of thrombi in coronary arteries. The invention is especially suited for the re-epithelialization of donor sites from which epidermal tissue is harvested for application to burn sites and for repair of the tissue and microvasculature of thermally injured skin. In accordance with the present invention, the rate of re-epithelialization or re-endothelialization is enhanced or accelerated by administering a dehydroepiandrosterone (DHEA) derivative.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE FIGURES

Figure 1 shows the effect of DHEAS on wound healing in mice. Figure 1 shows the results for mature adult mice (▲), aged mice (■) and aged mice with DHEAS treatment (●).

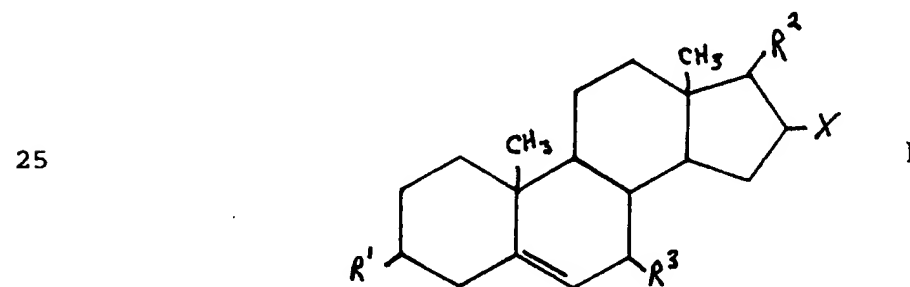
Figure 2 shows the effect of DHEAS on closure of keratectomy sites in pigs as expressed in % re-epithelialization per site per day. Figure 2 shows the results for the control (vehicle, ■), 4 mg/kg dose of DHEAS () and 12 mg/kg dose of DHEAS (▲).

Figure 3 shows a graphical illustration of the results of keratectomy-induced wound closure. The results in Figure 3 are as for Figure 2.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

5 The present invention relates to the use of a dehydroepiandrosterone (DHEA) derivative as described herein or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof for preparing a pharmaceutical composition for accelerating re-epithelialization or re-endothelialization of tissue in a subject in need thereof. Examples of re-epithelialization in which the invention is particularly suited include, but are not limited to, re-epithelialization of (a) skin following surgical wounds, (b) skin abrasions
 10 caused by mechanical trauma, caustic agents or burns, (c) cornea following cataract surgery or corneal transplants, (d) mucosal epithelium (respiratory, gastrointestinal, genitourinary, mammary, oral cavity, ocular tissue, liver and kidney) following infection, nonpathological etiologies or drug therapy, (e) skin following grafting and (f) renal tubule following acute tubular necrosis. Examples of re-endothelialization in which the invention is particularly suited include, but are not limited to, re-
 15 endothelialization (or regrowth of endothelium) in blood vessels following angioplasty, and the lysis of fibrin clots or lysis or mechanical disruption of thrombi in coronary arteries. In accordance with the present invention, the time to complete re-epithelialization or re-endothelialization is enhanced or accelerated administering a dehydroepiandrosterone (DHEA) derivative, preferably intravenously, to a patient in need of re-epithelialization or re-endothelialization.

20 Examples of a DHEA derivative, include but are not limited to, compounds having the general formula I



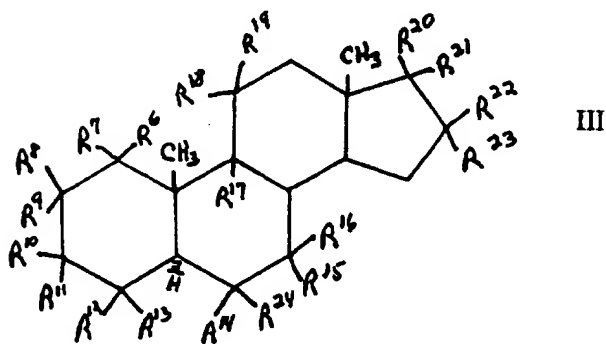
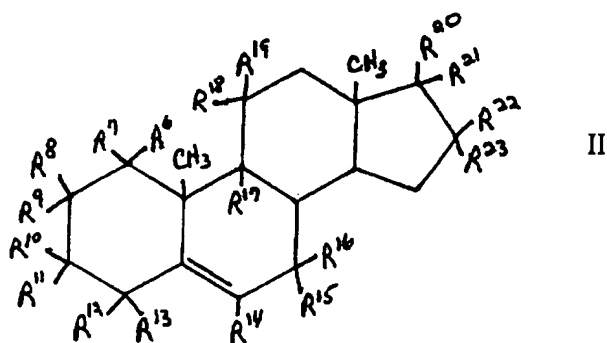
wherein

30 X is H or halogen;

R^1 , R^2 and R^3 are independently =O, -OH, -SH, H, halogen, pharmaceutically acceptable ester, pharmaceutically acceptable thioester, pharmaceutically acceptable ether, pharmaceutically acceptable thioether, pharmaceutically acceptable inorganic esters, pharmaceutically acceptable monosaccharide, disaccharide or oligosaccharide, spirooxirane, spirothirane, $-\text{OSO}_2R^4$ or $-\text{OPOR}^4R^5$;

R^4 and R^5 are independently -OH, pharmaceutically acceptable esters or pharmaceutically acceptable ethers; and
pharmaceutically acceptable salts.

Further examples of a DHEA derivative, include but are not limited to, compounds having the general formulas II and III and their pharmaceutically acceptable salts



wherein

R^6 , R^7 , R^8 , R^9 , R^{11} , R^{12} , R^{13} , R^{14} , R^{15} , R^{16} , R^{17} , R^{18} , R^{19} and R^{24} are independently H, -OH, halogen, C_{1-10} alkyl or C_{1-10} alkoxy;

R^{10} is H, -OH, halogen, C_{1-10} alkyl, C_{1-10} alkoxy or OSO_2R^{25} ;

R^{20} is (1) H, halogen, C_{1-10} alkyl or C_{1-10} alkoxy when R^{21} is $-\text{C}(\text{O})\text{OR}^{26}$ or

(2) H, halogen, OH or C₁₋₁₀ alkyl when R²¹ is H, halogen, OH or C₁₋₁₀ alkyl or

(3) H, halogen, C₁₋₁₀ alkyl, C₁₋₁₀ alkenyl, C₁₋₁₀ alkynyl, formyl, C₁₋₁₀ alkanoyl or epoxy when R²¹ is OH; or

5 R²⁰ and R²¹ taken together are =O;

R²² and R²³ are independently (1) H, -OH, halogen, C₁₋₁₀ alkyl or C₁₋₁₀ alkoxy when R²¹ is H, OH, halogen, C₁₋₁₀ alkyl or -C(O)OR²⁶ or

10 (2) H, (C₁₋₁₀ alkyl)_namino, (C₁₋₁₀ alkyl)_namino-C₁₋₁₀ alkyl, C₁₋₁₀ alkoxy, hydroxy-C₁₋₁₀ alkyl, C₁₋₁₀ alkoxy-C₁₋₁₀ alkyl, (halogen)_m-C₁₋₁₀ alkyl, C₁₋₁₀ alkanoyl, formyl, C₁₋₁₀ carbalkoxy or C₁₋₁₀ alkanoyloxy when R²⁰ and R²¹ taken together are =O; or

R²² and R²³ taken together are =O or taken together with the carbon to which they are attached form a 3-6 member ring containing 0 or 1 oxygen atom; or

15 R²⁰ and R²² taken together with the carbons to which they are attached form an epoxide ring;

R²⁵ is OH, pharmaceutically acceptable ester or pharmaceutically acceptable ether;

R²⁶ is H, (halogen)_m-C₁₋₁₀ alkyl or C₁₋₁₀ alkyl;

n is 0, 1 or 2; and

20 m is 1, 2 or 3,

with the provisos that (a) R¹⁰ is not H, halogen, C₁₋₁₀ alkoxy or OSO₂R²⁵ when R⁶, R⁷, R⁸, R⁹, R¹¹, R¹², R¹³, R¹⁴, R¹⁵, R¹⁷, R¹⁸, R¹⁹ and R²² are H and R¹⁶ is H, halogen, OH or C₁₋₁₀ alkoxy and R²³ is H or halogen and R²⁰ and R²¹ taken together are =O; and

25 (b) R¹⁰ is not H, halogen, C₁₋₁₀ alkoxy or OSO₂R²⁵ when R⁶, R⁷, R⁸, R⁹, R¹¹, R¹², R¹³, R¹⁴, R¹⁵, R¹⁷, R¹⁸, R¹⁹ and R²² are H and R¹⁶ is H, halogen, OH or C₁₋₁₀ alkoxy and R²³ is H or halogen and R²⁰ is H and R²¹ is H, OH or halogen.

30 The compounds represented by the general formula I exist in many stereoisomers and the formula is intended to encompass the various stereoisomers. Examples of suitable DHEA congeners of Formula I include compounds in which:

(1) R^2 is =O, R^3 and X are each H and R^1 is =O, -OH, pharmaceutically acceptable esters thereof, pharmaceutically acceptable ethers thereof or pharmaceutically acceptable salts;

(2) R^2 is =O, R^3 is H, X is halogen and R^1 is =O, -OH, pharmaceutically acceptable esters thereof, pharmaceutically acceptable ethers thereof or pharmaceutically acceptable salts;

5 (3) R^2 is =O, R^3 and X are each H and R^1 is -SH, pharmaceutically acceptable thioesters thereof, pharmaceutically acceptable thioethers thereof or pharmaceutically acceptable salts;

(4) R^2 is =O, R^3 is H, X is halogen and R^1 is -SH, pharmaceutically acceptable thioesters thereof, pharmaceutically acceptable thioethers thereof or pharmaceutically acceptable salts;

10 (5) R^2 is =O, X is H and R^1 and R^3 are independently =O, -OH, pharmaceutically acceptable esters thereof, pharmaceutically acceptable ethers thereof or pharmaceutically acceptable salts;

(6) R^2 is =O, X is halogen and R^1 and R^3 are independently =O, -OH, pharmaceutically acceptable esters thereof, pharmaceutically acceptable ethers thereof or pharmaceutically acceptable salts;

15 (7) R^2 is =O, X is H and R^1 and R^3 are independently -SH, pharmaceutically acceptable thioesters thereof, pharmaceutically acceptable thioethers thereof or pharmaceutically acceptable salts;

20 (8) R^2 is =O, X is halogen and R^1 and R^3 are independently -SH, pharmaceutically acceptable thioesters thereof, pharmaceutically acceptable thioethers thereof or pharmaceutically acceptable salts;

(9) R^2 is -OH, R^3 and X are each H and R^1 is =O, -OH, pharmaceutically acceptable esters thereof, pharmaceutically acceptable ethers thereof or pharmaceutically acceptable salts;

(10) R^2 is -OH, R^3 is H, X is halogen and R^1 is =O, -OH, pharmaceutically acceptable esters thereof, pharmaceutically acceptable ethers thereof or pharmaceutically acceptable salts;

25 (11) R^2 is -OH, R^3 and X are each H and R^1 is -SH, pharmaceutically acceptable thioesters thereof, pharmaceutically acceptable thioethers thereof or pharmaceutically acceptable salts;

30 (12) R^2 is -OH, R^3 is H, X is halogen and R^1 is -SH, pharmaceutically acceptable thioesters thereof, pharmaceutically acceptable thioethers thereof or pharmaceutically acceptable salts;

(13) R^2 is -OH, X is H and R^1 and R^3 are independently =O, -OH, pharmaceutically acceptable esters thereof, pharmaceutically acceptable ethers thereof or pharmaceutically acceptable salts;

5 (14) R^2 is -OH, X is halogen and R^1 and R^3 are independently =O, -OH, pharmaceutically acceptable esters thereof, pharmaceutically acceptable ethers thereof or pharmaceutically acceptable salts;

(15) R^2 is -OH, X is H and R^1 and R^3 are independently -SH, pharmaceutically acceptable thioesters thereof, pharmaceutically acceptable thioethers thereof or pharmaceutically acceptable salts;

10 (16) R^2 is -OH, X is halogen and R^1 and R^3 are independently -SH, pharmaceutically acceptable thioesters thereof, pharmaceutically acceptable thioethers thereof or pharmaceutically acceptable salts;

(17) R^2 is -SH, R^3 and X are each H and R^1 is =O, -OH, pharmaceutically acceptable esters thereof, pharmaceutically acceptable ethers thereof or pharmaceutically acceptable salts;

15 (18) R^2 is -SH, R^3 is H, X is halogen and R^1 is =O, -OH, pharmaceutically acceptable esters thereof, pharmaceutically acceptable ethers thereof or pharmaceutically acceptable salts;

(19) R^2 is -SH, R^3 and X are each H and R^1 is -SH, pharmaceutically acceptable thioesters thereof, pharmaceutically acceptable thioethers thereof or pharmaceutically acceptable salts;

20 (20) R^2 is -SH, R^3 is H, X is halogen and R^1 is -SH, pharmaceutically acceptable thioesters thereof, pharmaceutically acceptable thioethers thereof or pharmaceutically acceptable salts;

25 (21) R^2 is -SH, X is H and R^1 and R^3 are independently =O, -OH, pharmaceutically acceptable esters thereof, pharmaceutically acceptable ethers thereof or pharmaceutically acceptable salts;

(22) R^2 is -SH, X is halogen and R^1 and R^3 are independently =O, -OH, pharmaceutically acceptable esters thereof, pharmaceutically acceptable ethers thereof or pharmaceutically acceptable salts;

30 (23) R^2 is -SH, X is H and R^1 and R^3 are independently -SH, pharmaceutically acceptable thioesters thereof, pharmaceutically acceptable thioethers thereof or pharmaceutically acceptable salts;

(24) R^2 is -SH, X is halogen and R^1 and R^3 are independently -SH, pharmaceutically acceptable thioesters thereof, pharmaceutically acceptable thioethers thereof or pharmaceutically acceptable salts;

5 (25) X is H and R^1 , R^2 and R^3 are independently =O, -OH, a sugar residue, pharmaceutically acceptable esters thereof, pharmaceutically acceptable ethers thereof or pharmaceutically acceptable salts, wherein at least one of R^1 , R^2 and R^3 is a sugar residue;

(26) X is halogen and R^1 , R^2 and R^3 are independently =O, -OH, a sugar residue, pharmaceutically acceptable esters thereof, pharmaceutically acceptable ethers thereof or pharmaceutically acceptable salts, wherein at least one of R^1 , R^2 and R^3 is a sugar residue;

10 (27) X is H and R^1 , R^2 and R^3 are independently =O, -OH, pharmaceutically acceptable inorganic esters thereof or pharmaceutically acceptable salts, wherein at least one of R^1 , R^2 and R^3 is an inorganic ester;

(28) X is halogen and R^1 , R^2 and R^3 are independently =O, -OH, pharmaceutically acceptable inorganic esters thereof or pharmaceutically acceptable salts, wherein at least one of R^1 , R^2 and R^3 is an inorganic ester.

15 Pharmaceutically acceptable esters or thioesters include, but are not limited to, esters or thioesters of the formula -OOCR or -SO₂CR, wherein R is a pharmaceutically acceptable alkyl, alkenyl, aryl, alkylaryl, arylalkyl, sphingosine or substituted sphingolipid groups, such as propionate, enanthate, cypionate, succinate, decanoate and phenylpropionate esters.

20 Pharmaceutically acceptable ethers or thioethers include, but are not limited to, ethers or thioethers of the formula -OR or -SR, wherein R is as defined above or enol, or -OR is an unsubstituted or substituted spirooxirane or -SR is a spirothiane.

Suitable sugar residues include, but are not limited to monosaccharides, disaccharides and oligosaccharides, such as a glucuronate.

25 Pharmaceutically acceptable inorganic esters include, but are not limited to, inorganic esters of the formula -OSO₂R⁴ or -OPOR⁴R⁵, wherein R⁴ and R⁵ are independently -OH, pharmaceutically acceptable esters, pharmaceutically acceptable ethers or pharmaceutically acceptable salts.

30 Compounds of general formulas II and III are synthesized as described in U.S. Patent Nos. 4,898,694; 5,001,119; 5,028,631; and 5,175,154, incorporated herein by reference. The

compounds represented by the general formulas II and III exist in many stereoisomers and these formulas are intended to encompass the various stereoisomers. Examples of representative compounds which fall within the scope of general formulas II and III include the following:

- 5α-androstan-17-one;
- 5 16α-fluoro-5α-androstan-17-one;
- 3β-methyl-5α-androsten-17-one;
- 16α-fluoro-5α-androstan-17-one;
- 17β-bromo-5-androsten-16-one;
- 17β-fluoro-3β-methyl-5-androsten-16-one;
- 10 17α-fluoro-5α-androstan-16-one;
- 3β-hydroxy-5-androsten-17-one;
- 17α-methyl-5α-androstan-16-one;
- 16α-methyl-5-androsten-17-one;
- 3β,16α-dimethyl-5-androsten-17-one;
- 15 3β,17α-dimethyl-5-androsten-16-one;
- 16α-hydroxy-5-androsten-17-one;
- 16α-fluoro-16β-methyl-5-androsten-17-one;
- 16α-methyl-5α-androstan-17-one;
- 16-dimethylaminomethyl-5α-androstan-17-one;
- 20 16β-methoxy-5-androsten-17-one;
- 16α-fluoromethyl-5-androsten-17-one;
- 16-methylene-5-androsten-17-one;
- 16-cyclopropyl-5α-androstan-17-one;
- 16-cyclobutyl-5-androsten-17-one;
- 25 16-hydroxymethylene-5-androsten-17-one;
- 3α-bromo-16α-methoxy-5-androsten-17-one;
- 16-oxymethylene-5-androsten-17-one;
- 3β-methyl-16ξ-trifluoromethyl-5α-androstan-17-one;
- 16-carbomethoxy-5-androsten-17-one;
- 30 3β-methyl-16β-methoxy-5α-androstan-17-one;
- 3β-hydroxy-16α-dimethylamino-5-androsten-17-one;

- 17 α -methyl-5-androsten-17 β -ol;
- 17 α -ethynyl-5 α -androstan-17 β -ol;
- 17 β -formyl-5 α -androstan-17 β -ol;
- 20,21-epoxy-5 α -pregnan-17 α -ol;
- 5 3 β -hydroxy-20,21-epoxy-5 α -pregnan-17 α -ol;
- 16 α -fluoro-17 α -ethenyl-5-androsten-17 β -ol;
- 16 α -hydroxy-5-androsten-17 α -ol;
- 16 α -methyl-5 α -androstan-17 α -ol;
- 16 α -methyl-16 β -fluoro-5 α -androstan-17 α -ol;
- 10 16 α -methyl-16 β -fluoro-3-hydroxy-5-androsten-17 α -ol;
- 3 β ,16 β -dimethyl-5-androsten-17 β -ol;
- 3 β ,16,16-trimethyl-5-androsten-17 β -ol;
- 3 β ,16,16-trimethyl-5-androsten-17-one;
- 3 β -hydroxy-4 α -methyl-5-androsten-17 α -ol;
- 15 3 β -hydroxy-4 α -methyl-5-androsten-17-one;
- 3 α -hydroxy-1 α -methyl-5-androsten-17-one;
- 3 α -ethoxy-5 α -androstan-17 β -ol;
- 5 α -pregnan-20-one;
- 3 β -methyl-5 α -pregnan-20-one;
- 20 16 α -methyl-5-pregnen-20-one;
- 16 α -methyl-3 β -hydroxy-5-pregnen-20-one;
- 17 α -fluoro-5-pregnen-20-one;
- 21-fluoro-5 α -pregnan-20-one;
- 17 α -methyl-5-pregnen-20-one;
- 25 20-acetoxy-cis-17(20)-5 α -pregnene;
- 3 α -methyl-16,17-epoxy-5-pregnen-20-one.

Initial investigations demonstrated that the administration of DHEA or DHEAS restored T-cell responsiveness to platelet derived growth factor (PDGF). It is known that PDGF and various
 30 other growth factors are involved in wound healing, angiogenesis and other repair processes. In studies detailed below, it was discovered that administration of DHEAS to aged mice enhanced the

rate of wound closure following a full thickness laceration of the dorsal tail skin. In further studies detailed below, it was discovered that the administration of DHEAS or DHEA to mice enhanced the re-epithelialization process following a scald burn on the dorsal trunk skin. In the final studies detailed below, the enhancement or acceleration of the re-epithelialization process is shown in a porcine model of partial thickness wound healing.

It has been discovered that the administration to a patient of a therapeutically effective amount of a DHEA derivative in a physiologically acceptable carrier as early as possible after an event that causes a physiological or mechanical disruption of an epithelial or endothelial surface, results in the acceleration or enhancement of re-epithelialization or re-endothelialization. It is preferred that the DHEA derivative be administered within four to twelve hours, more preferably four to six hours of the event. The acceleration of re-epithelialization or re-endothelialization results in earlier wound closure which is important to survival as previously noted. Although it is preferred to administer the DHEA derivative within four to six hours of the event, the DHEA derivative can be administered later and still enhance or accelerate re-epithelialization or re-endothelialization. The initial phase of healing of any wound requires the generation of a new surface (epithelial or endothelial) which serves as a barrier between sterile, vital tissue and the outside environment of the blood stream. The process of regrowth is the result of two other processes, migration and proliferation of the cells that form the epithelium or endothelium. The administration of a therapeutically effective amount of a DHEA derivative enhances or accelerates the process of regrowth to reduce the total time to wound closure.

Pharmaceutical compositions containing a DHEA derivative as the active ingredient in intimate admixture with a pharmaceutical carrier can be prepared according to conventional pharmaceutical compounding techniques. See, for example, Remington's Pharmaceutical Sciences, 17th Ed. (1985, Mack Publishing Co., Easton, PA). The carrier may take a wide variety of forms depending on the form of preparation desired for administration, e.g. intravenous or oral. In preparing the compositions in oral dosage form, any of the usual pharmaceutical media may be employed, such as, for example, water, glycols, oils, alcohols, flavoring agents, preservatives, coloring agents and the like in the case of oral liquid preparations (such as, for example, suspensions, elixirs and solutions); or carriers such as starches, sugars, diluents, granulating agents, lubricants, binders, disintegrating agents and the like in the case of oral solid preparations (such as, for example, powders, capsules and tablets). If desired, tablets may be sugar-coated or enteric-

coated by standard techniques. The carrier may comprise sterile water, although other ingredients, for example, to aid solubility or for preservative purposes, may be included. Injectable solutions or suspensions may also be prepared, in which case appropriate liquid carriers, suspending agents and the like may be employed. It is preferred that the active ingredient be administered by intravenous injection.

The dose of the DHEA derivative is based on well known pharmaceutically acceptable principles to deliver a DHEAS equivalent dose of, e.g., 2-500 mg/kg, preferably 2-200 mg/kg, more preferably 5-200 mg/kg and most preferably 5-50 mg/kg. An especially preferred DHEAS equivalent dose is 5-40 mg/kg. Generally the dose of a DHEA derivative necessary to deliver this level of a DHEAS dose or a DHEAS equivalent dose is 1-1000 mg/kg, preferably 2-800 mg/kg, more preferably 2-500 mg/kg. The dose of DHEA derivative can be readily determined using conventional methods and will generally be in the range of the doses specified for DHEAS. For unprotected compounds, i.e., those which can be sulfated by human sulfotransferases or sulfatases, it is preferred to administer an excess dose to insure that sufficient active agent is administered, especially if sulfatases are not active at the site of tissue injury. The patient is treated with a DHEA derivative as soon after the event requiring a re-epithelialization or a re-endothelialization of a tissue as possible until the tissue has been re-epithelialized or re-endothelialized. The treatment generally does not exceed 45 days, preferably 28 days and most preferably 7-14 days.

The present invention is described by reference to the following Examples, which are offered by way of illustration and are not intended to limit the invention in any manner. Standard techniques well known in the art or the techniques specifically described below were utilized.

EXAMPLE 1

DHEAS Treatment Enhances Wound Healing in Aged Mice *In Vivo*

WO 93/21711 demonstrates that IL-6 influences cellular responsiveness to PDGF and that DHEAS treatment restores T-cell responsiveness to PDGF. Since PDGF and various other growth factors are involved in wound healing, angiogenesis and other repair processes, this study was conducted to determine if DHEAS treatment could enhance wound healing.

Groups of mature adult mice (approximately 6 months of age, ▲), a control group of aged mice (greater than 2 years of age, ■), and another group of aged mice maintained on oral, supplemental DHEA-S (●) were compared for the relative rate of wound healing following a full thickness laceration of the dorsal tail skin. All mice were anesthetized and administered a precise laceration 2 cm from the base of the tail. The cut on each mouse was approximately 3 mm in length across the tail. Starting at 24 hours (day 1) and continuing daily for 18 days, mice were examined and given a numerical evaluation for the healing at the wound site. The wounds of both the mature adult and the DHEAS-treated aged mice showed steady healing of their wounds. These wounds were fully closed and scabbed within four days of injury. However, the untreated aged mice showed a much slower rate of healing, with wound closure and scabbing requiring about 14 days to develop. These results are shown in Figure 1, where the following grading is used:

- 0 = fresh laceration
- 1 = fully open wound
- 2 = closing from edges (halfway)
- 3 = closing from edges (greater than halfway)
- 4 = fully closed wound, swelling
- 5 = fully scabbed wound, swelling
- 6 = slight swelling
- 7 = no swelling

This example demonstrates that administration of DHEAS accelerates the rate of wound healing in aged animals. Similar results are obtained for DHEA and the compounds described above.

EXAMPLE 2

Study of Burn Wound Re-epithelialization in the Mouse

Re-epithelialization of burn wounds was initially studied in a murine model of thermal injury. The dorsal trunk skin of anesthetized, six-week old Balb/c female mice was shaven and denuded with depilatory cream. Twenty-four hours later, each mouse was anesthetized and given an immersion, scald burn at 71°C, and a 5 second exposure. At four hours post-burn, mice were selected at random to receive another 12 mg/kg of DHEAS iv or placebo. Drug or placebo was given one time daily for six days. Under these conditions using juvenile mice, survival rates are 100%, and the depth of burn at 3 days post-injury with no therapeutic intervention is a deep second degree burn. Groups of two or three mice were euthanized from each of the treatment groups on

days 3, 5 and 7 post-burn and the skin of the injured site was excised. The tissue was completely flattened, labeled and then immersed in 10% buffered formalin. After fixing for one week, the tissue is embedded in paraffin. Three complete strips, 5 mm in width, extending across the midline and including both burn margins were prepared from the excised, fixed tissue. Sections were cut at a thickness of 5 μ m and stained with H and E for microscopic measurement of the linear distance of the re-epithelialized burn wound (%RE).

When administered to mice, partial thickness burn wounds are not protected with sterile dressings and can show a delay of 2-3 days in initiation of re-epithelialization. Among placebo-treated mice, re-epithelialization averaged 15% linear closure on day +3 (n=9), 35% closure on day 5 (n=9), and only 65% closure on day 7 (n=9). In contrast, DHEAS treatment accelerated the re-epithelialization process. We observed an average of 48% linear closure on day +3 (n=9), and 94% linear closure on day +5 (n=9). Since these wounds were considered to be closed on day 5, it was not surprising that the wounds excised from the thermally injured dorsal trunk skin of mice on day +7 were also fully closed. Similar results were obtained for DHEA. Similar results are obtained for the compounds described above.

Additional studies have determined that following thermal injury IGF-I and IGF-II gene transcription is repressed in skin early after burn. However, therapeutic dosing of DHEAS following injury blocks burn-induced repression of the IGF genes in skin tissue. It is clear that re-epithelialization of partial thickness burn wounds can be studied in murine models. More importantly the result indicated that administration of DHEA/DHEAS intravenously reduced the time to complete closure of the wounds.

EXAMPLE 3

Study of Effects of DHEAS on Re-epithelialization in a Model of Partial Thickness Wound Closure in Pigs

The objective of the present study was to determine the effects of two dose levels (4 and 12 mg/kg) of DHEAS in a porcine model of partial thickness wound healing induced by keratectomy. The methods would mimic the clinical situation in which epidermal tissue might be harvested by keratectomy from a donor graft site for application to a burn site. Efficacy of treatment with the test article was evaluated by measuring the extent of re-epithelialization (%RE), in comparison to treatment with the vehicle.

The time points chosen for evaluation of re-epithelialization after kerectomy wounds were based on those used in the literature (46, 47). Typically, this animal model of wound healing is used to evaluate topical, rather than systemic, treatment of the wounds. Multiple wounds are often collected from a single pig at different times by excisional biopsy under anesthesia (46, 48). Complete re-epithelialization of untreated (air-exposed) kerectomy wounds (%RE = 100) in this model may take 6-7 days (46, 47), while coverage with an occlusive dressing may shorten the time required for complete re-epithelialization to 5 days (48). Wound healing (the plotted %RE) typically results in re-epithelialization that does not conform to a linear rate. Thus, HT_{50} values are extrapolated from plots of %RE versus time (46, 47). Kerectomy wounds left untreated (control), covered with occlusive dressing, or treated with petrolatum, have been associated with HT_{50} values of 4.3, 2.6 or ~5 days, respectively (46). This corresponds to RHR values of +40% and -16% for the occlusive dressing and petrolatum, respectively (46). At the Test Facility, the kerectomy model has previously yielded HT_{50} values of 4.0 days for control (untreated) wounds and 3.1 days for wounds covered with an occlusive dressing.

A. Experimental Design

1. Overview

The study consisted of three groups of six animals per group. The animals in this study were instrumented with an indwelling catheter in the jugular vein for dose administration and received partial thickness kerectomy. Treatment consisted of intravenous administration of the vehicle or DHEAS at specified times. Blood was collected and processed for sera for assay. Subsequently, all animals were euthanized and the wounds were collected for evaluation of re-epithelialization.

2. Study Design

Text Table 1 summarizes the study design.

Table I

Group No.	No. of Animals	Wound Model	Substance	Dose (mg/kg)	Treatment Route	Time of Administration ¹	Euthanasia/ Tissue Collection
1 (Control)	6	4, 50 x 50 x 0.5 mm partial thickness blade wounds	Vehicle	DVE	IV	Once on Day 1 (Hour 4 ²) and Days 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	Two pigs on each of Days 4, 6
2 (Low Dose)	6	"	DHEAS	4	IV	"	"
3 (High Dose)	6	"	DHEAS	12	IV	"	"

DVE = Dose volume equivalent to high dose.

IV = Intravenous infusion over 10 minutes.

¹ Pigs were not dosed on their day of euthanasia.² Hour 4 was considered to be four hours after the last wound was made.

3. Justifications

The study was designed to use a model of wound healing in pigs to evaluate the potential efficacy of a test article. The number of animals used in this study was considered the minimum number acceptable for evaluation of the results. This product required evaluation of its performance using an *in vivo* model, since its anticipated use will be in humans. Pigs are an accepted model for wound healing studies because of the similarity of their skin to human skin. The treatment regimen stimulates the anticipated administration in humans.

B. Materials And Methods

1. Animals

Receipt: Twenty female Yorkshire pigs were received on 27 December 1995 from Earl M. Parsons and Sons, Inc., Hadley, Massachusetts. Upon receipt, the pigs were examined for clinical signs of disease or injury, and weighed from 19.2 to 24.3 kg.

Quarantine: The pigs were quarantined for seven days. During this period, the pigs were housed in pens and acclimated to the environmental conditions used for the study. The animals were released from quarantine on 02 January 1996 following a visual inspection to evaluate their health status by Marek Piechowiak.

Acclimation: During quarantine, all study animals were acclimated to wearing a protective aluminum jacket prior to the surgical procedure and were handled daily so that they became acclimated to close human contact.

Identification/Randomization: Each animal was identified with a unique number that was indicated with a ear tag. Color-coded cage labels identified each cage with study number, group number, sex, species, individual animal identification number and Study Director. The animals were randomized into three groups by computer-generated random number selection.

2. Test Article

Receipt: On 19 December 1995, 90 vials, each containing 200 mg of the test article, DHEAS-IV, were received from Pharmaco-L&R, Austin, Texas 78704. The test article and control articles were described as white, crystalline powders, and were stored at $22 \pm 5^\circ\text{C}$ by the Test Facility. The diluent, Sterile Water for Injection (SWI), USP, supplied by the Test Facility, was described as a clear liquid, and was stored at $22 \pm 5^\circ\text{C}$ by the Test Facility.

Formulation: Intravenous dose formulations were prepared daily at a concentration of 10 mg/mL using sterile equipment and technique according to the following procedures. A supply of Sterile Water for Injection (SWI), sufficient for reconstitution of the desired number of vials, was warmed to 34-40°C in a water bath. Under a laminar flow hood, 20 mL of SWI were aseptically transferred to each vial of vehicle or test article needed. The contents of each reconstituted vial were mixed by gently shaking. Formulated test materials were stored at ambient temperature prior to use, and were used within two hours of preparation.

3. Surgical Procedures - Preoperative

Anesthesia: The pigs were initially anesthetized with a mixture of ketamine HCl (25 mg/kg), atropine (0.04 mg/kg), butorphanol (0.55 mg/kg) and xylazine (2 mg/kg), administered intramuscularly. The pigs were intubated and maintained in anesthesia with isoflurane inhalant anesthetic, delivered through a volume-regulated respirator. A percutaneous catheter was placed in a peripheral vein for intravascular access, if necessary. Drugs for appropriate anesthetic management were available for administration if indicated.

Antibiotic Administration: Procaine/benzathine penicillin G (1 mL/4.5 kg, IM) was administered prior to surgery. The dose, route, time and site of administration were recorded.

Surgical Preparation: For each animal the torso, back and sites of jugular vein catheterization and exteriorization of the jugular catheters were clipped of all hair. These sites were cleaned with three alternating scrubs of povidone-iodine scrub solution and 70% isopropyl alcohol, with a final application of povidone-iodine solution that was allowed to dry. The operative sites were appropriately draped for aseptic surgery.

Surgical Procedures: Details of the surgical techniques were documented in a Surgical Techniques Memorandum (Appendix A).

Wound Creation: Keratectomy: Two square wounds measuring approximately 50 x 50 c 0.5 mm were made on each side of the animal (four blade wounds per animal) in the dorsal paravertebral and thoracic area skin with a nitrogen-powered dermatome.

Catheterization: A jugular vein was surgically isolated and catheterized. The catheter was tunneled subcutaneously and exteriorized on the pig's dorsal midline. After placement of the catheter, the incision was closed. The catheter and wounds were protected by an aluminum jacket placed on the pig.

4. Surgical Procedures - Postoperative

Postoperative Analgesia: The pigs were given buprenorphine (0.03 mg/kg, IV) and acetylpromazine (0.75 mg/kg, IV) prior to extubation for post-operative analgesia and to facilitate recovery from anesthesia, respectively. Buprenorphine was then administered for two additional days. If deemed appropriate by the Study Director or Test Facility Veterinarian, additional analgesic agents were administered. The dose, route and site of administration for all analgesics were documented in the study file.

Incision Sites: The surgical incisions were observed twice daily for signs of infection, inflammation and general integrity.

Catheter Maintenance: The jugular catheter was filled and "locked" as appropriate. All procedures adhered to aseptic technique. Additional procedures were performed as necessary to maintain catheters.

Dressing Maintenance: A protective aluminum jacket was placed on each animal to prevent disruption of the bandages. The aluminum jacket and the bandages were checked twice daily and replaced or adjusted as necessary. The Tegaderm™ was replaced daily or as necessary.

5. Treatment

Treatment with the vehicle or DHEAS was administered over 10 minutes using a clinical grade infusion pump by intravenous infusion (via an indwelling catheter in the jugular vein) at the times specified in Table 1. Dose volumes were calculated based on the most recent body weight and were rounded to the nearest 0.1 mL. Administration of the test materials was documented for each animal; volume, time and site were recorded.

6. Wound Biopsy

All animals were anesthetized and all wounds were excised and pinned in a flat position and immersed in 10% neutral buffered formalin for fixation. Approximately 24 hours later, the biopsies were unpinned and transferred to appropriately-labeled containers of 10% neutral buffered formalin. After fixation, a 5 mm strip from the center of each wound was trimmed and processed for histopathology.

Special Histology: For all animals, biopsied wounds were sectioned *in toto*, and mounted on large microscope slides.

7. Pathology

Euthanasia: Euthanasia (tranquilization with ketamine and xylazine, if necessary, if necessary, followed by anesthesia and euthanasia with sodium pentobarbital, 25 mg/kg, IV, and if necessary, exsanguination) was performed in accordance with accepted American Veterinary Medical Association guidelines [Report of the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) Panel on Euthanasia, Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association, 202:229-249 (1993)].

8. Data Analysis

Evaluation of Wound Healing: Keratectomy wounds were evaluated separately. The histopathology slides for each wound were reviewed and the total linear distance of each wound and the linear distance covered by migrating epithelial cells were measured. The following calculations were performed:

$$\% \text{ re-epithelialization for each keratectomy} \quad \% RE_K = \frac{\text{linear distance re-epithelialized}}{\text{linear distance total wound}} \times 100$$

$$\% \text{ re-epithelialization for each treatment at each time point:} \quad \% RE_{KT} = \frac{\sum \% RE_K}{\text{number of wounds}}$$

Wound healing data are presented in Table 2. The effect of DHEAS on closure of keratectomy sites in pigs is shown in Figures 2 and 3. These figures show the results for the control (vehicle, ■), 4 mg/kg dose of DHEAS (●) and 12 mg/kg dose of DHEAS (▲).

Table 2

Effect of Placebo vs. 4 mg/kg or 12 mg/kg DHEAS
on Re-Epithelialization of Keratectomy Wounds in Pig Model

5

<u>Treatment</u>	Placebo Treated (12 mg/kg/day x 7 Days)	Low Dose DHEAS (4 mg/kg/day x 7 Days)	High Dose DHEAS (12 mg/kg/day x 7 Days)
% RE d0 (mean SD)	1.5 ± 1.5	1.5 ± 1.5	1.5 ± 1.5
% RE d.3 (mean SD)	53.54 ± 6.07	36.9 ± 10.95	53.61 ± 16.64
% RE d.5 (mean SD)	76.52 ± 16.93	85.65 ± 6.18	93.84 ± 7.67
% RE d.7 (mean SD)	100 ± 0	100 ± 0	99.59 ± 1.163
r =	0.9760	0.9909	0.9674
95% CV	.09445 - 0.9897	0.9786 - 0.9961	0.9250 - 0.9860
n =	24	24	24
time to closure (days)	6.9	5.8	5.3 (<0.05 vs. placebo)

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9. Results

All animals were euthanized according to a randomization schedule on days 3, 5 or 7.

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Both keratectomy and burn wounds were excised and prepared for histologic evaluation of re-epithelialization. Analysis of the linear length of each keratectomy and the linear length of re-epithelialization of each was used to calculate the percentage of the wound re-epithelialized at each time interval. Linear regression analysis was then employed to derive the mean time to 100% re-epithelialization for wounds in placebo vs. test article treatment groups. The results of this study are given in Table 2. Closure in the placebo-treated group was linear, with a mean time to closure of 6.9 days. For the 12 mg/kg dose of DHEAS, wounds were 94% closed at five days and the regression analysis calculated a mean time to closure of 5.3 days (p<0.05 vs. placebo). The wounds of pigs in the 4 mg/kg dose of DHEAS were 86% closed by day five, which indicated a mean time to complete closure of 5.8 days.

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The conclusion drawn from this experiment is that DHEAS IV had a significant biological effect on reducing the mean time to closure of keratectomy wounds in a pig model. The predicted mean time for closure for the placebo was not different from the histologic measurements, around seven days to completion. Administration of DHEAS clearly shortened the time to complete closure of keratectomy wounds by approximately two days. Similar results are obtained for DHEA and the compounds described above.

It will be appreciated that the methods and compositions of the instant invention can be incorporated in the form of a variety of embodiments, only a few of which are disclosed herein. It will be apparent to the artisan that other embodiments exist and do not depart from the spirit of the invention. Thus, the described embodiments are illustrative and should not be construed as restrictive.

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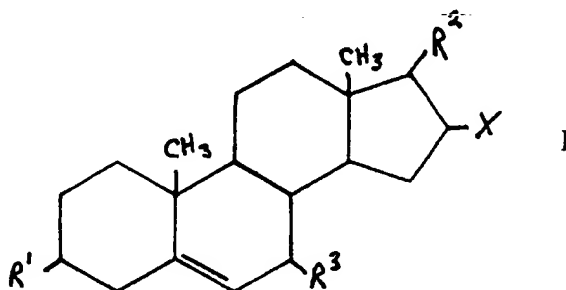
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WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. Use of a dehydroepiandrosterone (DHEA) derivative or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof for preparing a pharmaceutical composition for accelerating re-epithelialization or re-endothelialization of tissue in a subject in need thereof.
2. The use of claim 1, wherein said DHEA derivative has the general formula I



wherein

X is H or halogen;

R^1 , R^2 and R^3 are independently =O, -OH, -SH, H, halogen, pharmaceutically acceptable ester, pharmaceutically acceptable thioester, pharmaceutically acceptable ether, pharmaceutically acceptable thioether, pharmaceutically acceptable inorganic esters, pharmaceutically acceptable monosaccharide, disaccharide or oligosaccharide, spirooxirane, spirothirane, $-\text{OSO}_2\text{R}^4$ or $-\text{OPOR}^4\text{R}^5$;

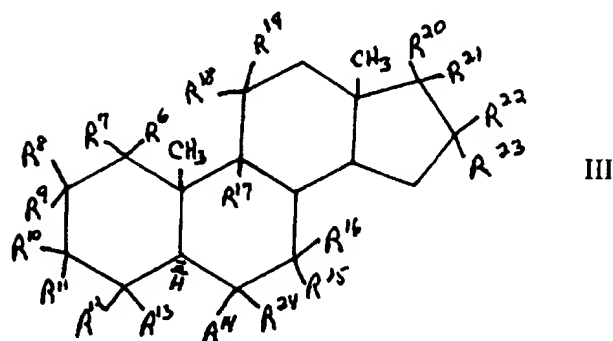
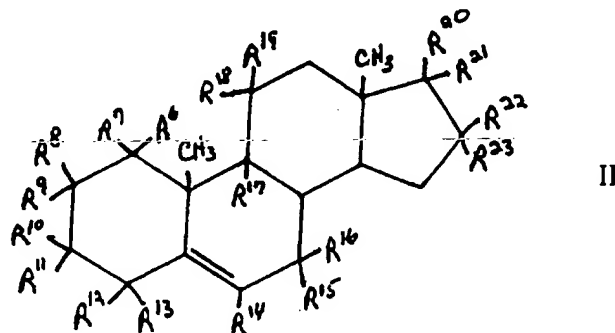
R^4 and R^5 are independently -OH, pharmaceutically acceptable esters or pharmaceutically acceptable ethers; and

pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

3. The use of claim 2, wherein R^2 is =O.
4. The use of claim 3, wherein said DHEA derivative is dehydroepiandrosterone sulfate or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.
5. The use of claim 3, wherein said DHEA derivative is dehydroepiandrosterone.

6. The use of claim 2, wherein R^2 is -OH, -SH, pharmaceutically acceptable esters, pharmaceutically acceptable ethers, pharmaceutically acceptable thioesters or pharmaceutically acceptable thioethers.

- 5 7. The use of claim 1, wherein said DHEA derivative has the general formula II or III



20 wherein

$R^6, R^7, R^8, R^9, R^{11}, R^{12}, R^{13}, R^{14}, R^{15}, R^{16}, R^{17}, R^{18}, R^{19}$ and R^{24} are independently H, -OH, halogen, C_{1-10} alkyl or C_{1-10} alkoxy;

R^{10} is H, -OH, halogen, C_{1-10} alkyl, C_{1-10} alkoxy or OSO_2R^{25} ;

R^{20} is (1) H, halogen, C_{1-10} alkyl or C_{1-10} alkoxy when R^{21} is $-C(O)OR^{26}$ or

25 (2) H, halogen, OH or C_{1-10} alkyl when R^{21} is H, halogen, OH or C_{1-10} alkyl or

(3) H, halogen, C_{1-10} alkyl, C_{1-10} alkenyl, C_{1-10} alkynyl, formyl, C_{1-10} alkanoyl or epoxy when R^{21} is OH; or

R^{20} and R^{21} taken together are $=O$;

30 R^{22} and R^{23} are independently (1) H, -OH, halogen, C_{1-10} alkyl or C_{1-10} alkoxy when R^{21} is H, OH, halogen, C_{1-10} alkyl or $-C(O)OR^{26}$ or

(2) H, (C₁₋₁₀ alkyl)_namino, (C₁₋₁₀ alkyl)_namino-C₁₋₁₀ alkyl, C₁₋₁₀ alkoxy, hydroxy-C₁₋₁₀ alkyl, C₁₋₁₀ alkoxy-C₁₋₁₀ alkyl, (halogen)_m-C₁₋₁₀ alkyl, C₁₋₁₀ alkanoyl, formyl, C₁₋₁₀ carbalkoxy or C₁₋₁₀ alkanoyloxy when R²⁰ and R²¹ taken together are =O; or

R²² and R²³ taken together are =O or taken together with the carbon to which they are attached form a 3-6 member ring containing 0 or 1 oxygen atom; or

R²⁰ and R²² taken together with the carbons to which they are attached form an epoxide ring;

R²⁵ is OH, pharmaceutically acceptable ester or pharmaceutically acceptable ether;

R²⁶ is H, (halogen)_m-C₁₋₁₀ alkyl or C₁₋₁₀ alkyl;

n is 0, 1 or 2; and

m is 1, 2 or 3,

with the provisos that (a) R¹⁰ is not H, halogen, C₁₋₁₀ alkoxy or OSO₂R²⁵ when R⁶, R⁷, R⁸, R⁹, R¹¹, R¹², R¹³, R¹⁴, R¹⁵, R¹⁷, R¹⁸, R¹⁹ and R²² are H and R¹⁶ is H, halogen, OH or C₁₋₁₀ alkoxy and R²³ is H or halogen and R²⁰ and R²¹ taken together are =O; and

(b) R¹⁰ is not H, halogen, C₁₋₁₀ alkoxy or OSO₂R²⁵ when R⁶, R⁷, R⁸, R⁹, R¹¹, R¹², R¹³, R¹⁴, R¹⁵, R¹⁷, R¹⁸, R¹⁹ and R²² are H and R¹⁶ is H, halogen, OH or C₁₋₁₀ alkoxy and R²³ is H or halogen and R²⁰ is H and R²¹ is H, OH or halogen.

8. The use of claim 7, wherein R²⁰ is H, halogen, C₁₋₁₀ alkyl or C₁₋₁₀ alkoxy and R²¹ is -C(O)OR²⁴.

9. The use of claim 7, wherein R²⁰ is H, halogen, OH or C₁₋₁₀ alkyl and R²¹ is H, halogen, OH or C₁₋₁₀ alkyl.

10. The use of claim 7, wherein R²⁰ is H, halogen, C₁₋₁₀ alkyl, C₁₋₁₀ alkenyl, C₁₋₁₀ alkynyl, formyl, C₁₋₁₀ alkanoyl or epoxy and R²¹ is OH.

11. The use of claim 7, wherein R²⁰ and R²¹ taken together are =O.

12. The use of any one of the preceeding claims, wherein the compound is administered in the amount of 1-1000 mg/kg.
13. The use of any one of the preceeding claims, wherein the compound is administered in the amount of 2-500 mg/kg.
14. The use of any one of the preceeding claims, wherein the compound is administered in the amount of 2-200 mg/kg.
15. The use of any one of claims 1 to 11, wherein the compound is administered in a DHEAS equivalent amount of 2-500 mg/kg.
16. The use of any one of claims 1 to 11 and 15, wherein the compound is administered in a DHEAS equivalent amount of 2-200 mg/kg.
17. The use of any one of claims 1 to 11, 15 and 16, wherein the compound is administered in a DHEAS equivalent amount of 5-200 mg/kg.
18. The use of any one of claims 1 to 11 and 15 to 17, wherein the compound is administered in a DHEAS equivalent amount of 5-50 mg/kg.
19. The method of any one of claims 1 to 11 and 15 to 18, wherein the compound is administered in a DHEAS equivalent amount of 5-40 mg/kg.
20. The method of any one of the preceeding claims, wherein said DHEA derivative is administered intravenously.
21. The method of any one of the preceeding claims, wherein the compound is administered in single or multiple doses.

22. The method of any one of the preceeding claims, wherein the compound is administered within four to twelve hours of an event that causes a physiological or mechanical disruption of an epithelial or endothelial surface.
- 5 23. The method of any one of the preceeding claims, wherein the compound is administered within four to six hours of an event that causes a physiological or mechanical disruption of an epithelial or endothelial surface.

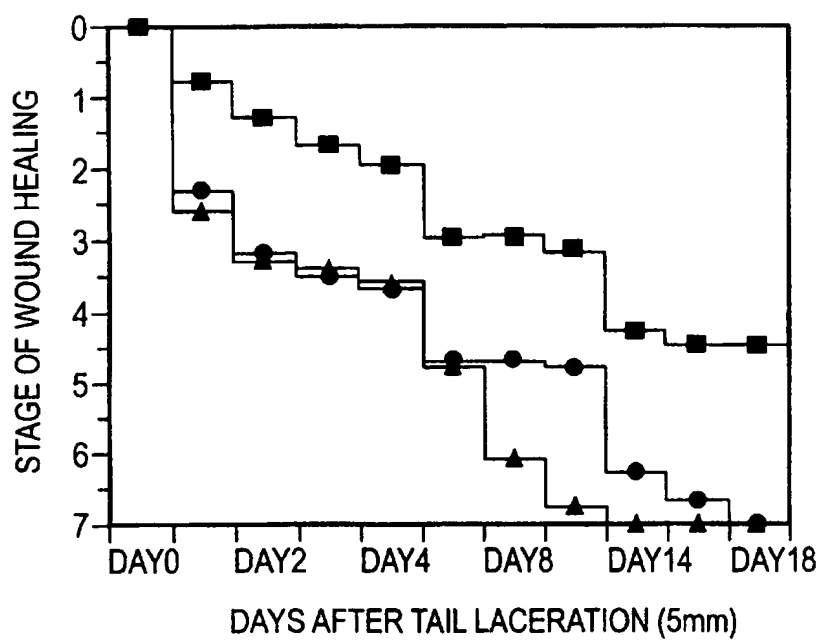


FIG. 1

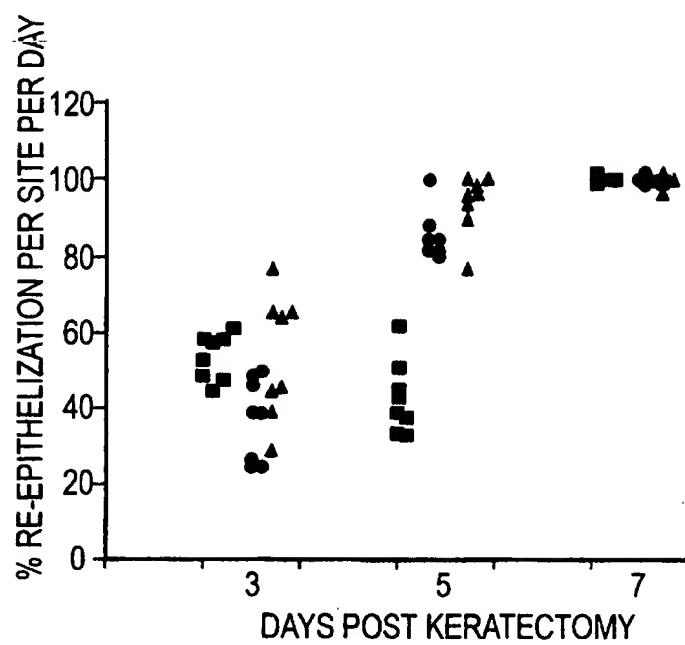


FIG. 2

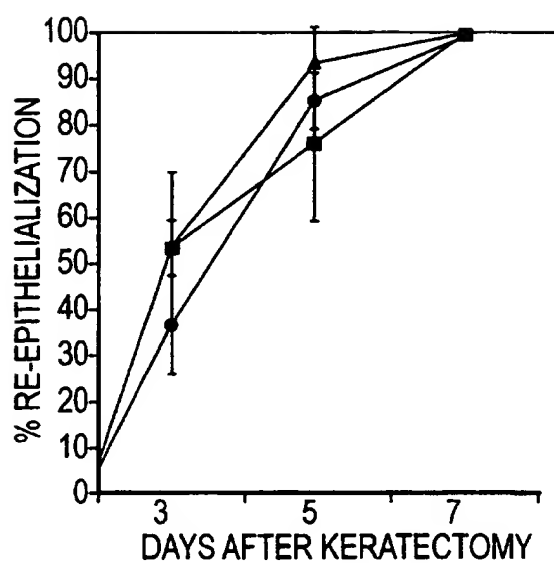


FIG. 3



INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(51) International Patent Classification ⁶ : A61K 31/565		A3	(11) International Publication Number: WO 98/05338
			(43) International Publication Date: 12 February 1998 (12.02.98)
(21) International Application Number: PCT/US97/12954		(81) Designated States: AL, AU, BA, BB, BG, BR, CA, CN, CU, CZ, EE, GE, HU, IL, IS, JP, KP, KR, LC, LK, LR, LT, LV, MG, MK, MN, MX, NO, NZ, PL, RO, SG, SI, SK, SL, TR, TT, UA, UZ, VN, YU, ARIPO patent (GH, KE, LS, MW, SD, SZ, UG, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, CH, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).	
(22) International Filing Date: 31 July 1997 (31.07.97)			
(30) Priority Data:			
08/695,769 1 August 1996 (01.08.96) US			
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(71) Applicant: UNIVERSITY OF UTAH RESEARCH FOUNDATION [US/US]; Suite 170, 421 Wakara Way, Salt Lake City, UT-84108-(US).		Published <i>With international search report.</i> <i>Before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of the receipt of amendments.</i>	
(72) Inventor: ARANEO, Barbara, A.; 2434 Kentucky Avenue, Salt Lake City, UT 84117 (US).			
(74) Agents: IHNEN, Jeffrey, L. et al.; Venable, Baetjer, Howard & Civiletti, LLP, Suite 1000, 1201 New York Avenue, N.W., Washington, DC 20005 (US).		(88) Date of publication of the international search report: 26 March 1998 (26.03.98)	
(54) Title: USE OF A DEHYDROEPIANDROSTERONE DERIVATIVE FOR ENHANCING OR ACCELERATING RE-EPITHELIALIZATION OR RE-ENDOTHELIALIZATION OF A TISSUE			
(57) Abstract			
<p>The present invention relates to the use of a dehydroepiandrosterone (DHEA) derivative as described herein or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof for preparing a pharmaceutical composition for accelerating re-epithelialization or re-endothelialization of tissue in a subject in need thereof. Examples of re-epithelialization in which the invention is particularly suited include, but are not limited to, re-epithelialization of (a) skin following surgical wounds; (b) skin abrasions caused by mechanical trauma, caustic agents or burns; (c) cornea following cataract surgery or corneal transplants; (d) mucosal epithelium (respiratory, gastrointestinal, genitourinary, mammary, oral cavity, ocular tissue, liver and kidney) following infection, nonpathological etiologies or drug therapy; (e) skin following grafting; and (f) renal tubule following acute tubular necrosis. Examples of re-endothelialization in which the invention is particularly suited include, but are not limited to, re-endothelialization (or regrowth of endothelium) in blood vessels following angioplasty, and the lysis of fibrin clots or lysis or mechanical disruption of thrombi in coronary arteries. In accordance with the present invention, the time to complete re-epithelialization or re-endothelialization is enhanced or accelerated by administering a dehydroepiandrosterone (DHEA) derivative.</p>			

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Internal Application No

PCT/US 97/12954

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
IPC 6 A61K31/565

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC 6 A61K

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 5 532 230 A (DAYNES RAYMOND A ET AL) 2 July 1996 see column 9, line 40 - column 10, line 38 ---	1-5,7, 11-23
X	WO 93 21771 A (UNIV UTAH) 11 November 1993 see page 26, line 15 - page 27, line 11 ---	1-4,7, 11-23
X	DIAMOND ET AL.: "Metabolic effects of 12-month percutaneous dehydroepiandrosterone replacement therapy in postmenopausal women" JOURNAL OF ENDOCRINOLOGY, vol. 150, pages s43-s50, XP002050304 see page S48, column 2, line 12 - page S48, column 2, line 25 ---	1-3,5,7, 11-23
-/--		

☒ Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

☒ Patent family members are listed in annex.

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- *S* document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

18 December 1997

Date of mailing of the international search report

- 4. 02. 98

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A. Jakobs

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Internat. Application No.
PCT/US 97/12954

C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	<p>ARNEO ET AL.: "Dehydroepiandrosterone Reduces Progressive Dermal Ischemia Caused By Thermal Injury" J. SURG. RES., vol. 59, 1995, pages 250-262, XP002050305 see the whole document ---</p>	1-3,5,7, 11-23
X	<p>TAMMI ET AL.: "Morphometric analysis of human epidermis treated with testosterone and dehydroepiandrosterone in organ culture" ARCH. DERMATOL. RES., vol. 281, no. 6, 1989, pages 417-423, XP002050306 see page 422, column 1, paragraph 2 ---</p>	1-3,5,7, 11-23
X	<p>EP 0 723 775 A (OREAL) 31 July 1996 see page 2, line 16 - page 2, line 22 ---</p>	1-4,7, 11-19, 21-23
A	<p>CASTOR ET AL.: "The local action of adrenocortical steroids on epidermis and connective tissue of the skin" ENDOCRINOLOGY, vol. 47, 1950, pages 234-241, XP002050307 see the whole document ---</p>	1-23
A	<p>SCHWARTZ ET AL.: "Dehydroepiandrosterone: An Anti-Cancer and possible Anti-Aging substance" MOD. AGING. RES., vol. 3a, 1983, pages 267-278, XP002050308 see page 272 ---</p>	1-23
A	<p>SHOLLEY ET AL.: "Dehydroepiandrosterone and Related Steroids Induce Multilamellar Lipid structures in Cultured Human Endothelial Cells" AM J. PATHOL., vol. 136, no. 5, 1990, pages 1187-1199, XP002050309 see page 1198 -----</p>	1-23

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/US 97/12954

Box I Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of Item 1 of first sheet)

This International Search Report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. ☒ Claims Nos.:
because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:
see FURTHER INFORMATION sheet PCT/ISA/210
2. ☒ Claims Nos.:
because they relate to parts of the International Application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful International Search can be carried out, specifically:
see FURTHER INFORMATION sheet PCT/ISA/210
3. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

Box II Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of Item 2 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:

1. ☐ As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers all searchable claims.
2. ☐ As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.
3. ☐ As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:
4. ☐ No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this International Search Report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:

Remark on Protest

- ☐ The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest.
- ☐ No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No. PCT/US 97/12954

FURTHER INFORMATION CONTINUED FROM PCT/ISA/ 210

This international search report has not been established in respect of
-----the following reasons:

Claims Nos.: 20-23

because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:

Rule 39.1(iv) PCT - Method for treatment of the human or animal body by therapy.

Claims Nos.: 7-10

because they relate to parts of the international application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful international search can be carried out, specifically:

In view of the large number of compounds, which are defined by the general definition(s)/formulae used in claims 7-10, the search had to be restricted for economic reasons. The search was limited to the compounds for which pharmacological data was given and / or the compounds mentioned in the claims, and to the general idea underlying the application. (see Guidelines, chapter III, paragraph 2.3)

The definition of DHEA

derivatives does not fit the general definition of claim 7 are no DHEA derivatives because they have no C-17 oxo double bond.

The subject matter of Claims 15-23 relates to a composition comprising a compound defined by the intended effect and activity, i.e. defined by the result to be achieved. Accordingly, the subject matter of claim 15-23 does not relate to any concrete compound. In view of the fact that no compounds are specified in structural terms in claim 15-23, it is impossible for ISA to list the different compounds. Moreover, such would represent an undue burden for ISA, as it would require ISA to perform an exhaustive search for identifying compounds having the intended activity in structural terms.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

Internat. Application No

PCT/US 97/12954

Patent document cited in search report	Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
US 5532230 A	02-07-96	US 5583126 A	10-12-96
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		JP 7506372 T	13-07-95
		NO 944127 A	28-12-94
		NZ 252491 A	26-05-97

EP 0723775 A	31-07-96	FR 2729854 A	02-08-96
		JP 8231342 A	10-09-96
